

Tangail BNP bigwigs fall apart over reform

Ex-MP and district president Mahmudul Hassan leads reformists while Delwar supporters rally round secretary Bulbul

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Front ranking BNP leaders in Tangail are virtually divided over reforms in the party and their allegiance to newly appointed secretary general Khandaker Delwar Hossain or expelled secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

The pro-reform faction is led by district president of the party and former lawmaker Maj Gen (Retd) Mahmudul Hassan while its general secretary Moniruzzaman Bulbul leads leaders loyal to Delwar, party sources said.

Mahmudul Hassan has already made his stance clear in favour of reforms and has been maintaining contact with expelled party secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, they said.

Moniruzzaman Khan Bulbul has expressed his confidence on the leadership of Khaleda Zia and the newly appointed secretary general Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

Three former ministers from Tangail-Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad, Goutam Chakraborty and Abdus Salam Pintu are yet to make their position known. They are still observing the situation, the sources claimed.

Another former minister and influential party leader Shahjahan



Mahmudul Hassan



Moniruzzaman Bulbul

Siraj is absconding since conviction by a court for tax evasion.

This correspondent could not contact any of the former ministers despite repeated attempts over cell phone.

Bulbul and his followers made their position clear by joining a relief distribution programme by BNP chairperson's adviser Brig Gen (Retd) ASM Hannan Shah in Bhupur recently.

Talking to this correspondent, Tangail district BNP vice-president and Bhupur upazila unit president Abdul Khalek Mandol said Khaleda Zia represents the mainstream BNP and upholds its ideology enunciated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

Asked about Mahmudul Hassan, he said, "Nobody is with him. District BNP organising

united under his leadership.

Nurul Islam, president of Delduar upazila BNP, known as loyal to Mahmudul Hassan, claimed that many top leaders in different upazila units are keeping regular contact with Mahmudul Hassan.

"But most of them kept mum and are not making any comment openly as the time is not ripe," he added.

When contacted, Bulbul said he along with most of the leaders and activists of Tangail BNP including district and upazila units are united under the leadership of party chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"Only those who joined BNP form Jatiya Party (Ershad) with Mahmudul Hassan may be with him (Hassan)," Bulbul added.

Talking to this correspondent, Mahmudul Hassan said personally he is not deny the leadership of Khaleda Zia.

But the party needs reforms, he asserted. The party would not have faced the present situation had there been reforms earlier, he said.

"All leaders and activists in Tangail who actually love the party are with me as I made the party stronger and disciplined after joining it," the former lawmaker said.

secretary and president of Tangail poura BNP Saidul Haque Sadu claimed that majority of leaders and activists are with Delwar.

Sources close to Mahmudul

Hassan however claimed that a good number of front ranking

leaders of the district committee are maintaining contacts with the former lawmaker (Hassan).

Advocate Mohammad Ali Miah,

senior vice-president of Tangail

district BNP, said there is no alter-

native to Mahmudul Hassan in

Tangail as he has done a lot of

development works in the district.

Mohammad Abdur Razzak,

secretary of Tangail Sadar BNP

and office secretary of the district

committee, said he along with "all

upazila level leaders" of

Mahmudul Hassan's constituency

(Tangail-5 Sadar-Delduar) are

Free flow of information vital for good governance

International Day for Right to Information observed in districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The International Day for Right to Information was observed in Sathkira and Barisal yesterday with a demand to ensure free flow of information for good governance.

Our Sathkira Correspondent reports: Local unit of Sachetan Nagrik Committee of the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) chalked out an elaborate programme to mark the day.

A colourful procession was brought out from Sathkira Collectorate ground. Processionists paraded the main streets of the district town. They carried placards with them and chanted slogans in support of their demand.

A discussion on 'Right to Information: Promise of Good Governance' was held at Sathkira Lawyers' Association auditorium with Sathkira Sachetan Nagrik Committee convener Advocate AKM Shahidulhaq in the chair.

Discussants said that right to information is a fundamental right of people. They said free flow of information may be a weapon to curb corruption. They hoped the government would take necessary measure to enact law in this regard.

They observed that no reform initiative would be successful if the government fails to enact law to ensure right to information.



A procession was brought out in Mymensingh town yesterday to mark the International Day for Right to Information.

They stressed on a campaign to make people aware about their rights. They said it is a must for empowerment of

people and good governance. They urged people to build up a movement to establish their right.

Among others, district information

officer (DIO) Nurul Huda, Sathkira Lawyers' Association president Advocate Abdul Hossain, Henri Sardar, Advocate Abdul Kalam Azad and SM Jahurul Rahman of TIB addressed.

Our Barisal Correspondent said: Barisal Sachetan Nagrik Committee formed a human chain in front of Aswani Kumar Hall here in the morning. Later, a discussion was held at the Nagrik Committee office in the afternoon.

The executive committee member of Barisal Sachetan Nagrik Committee, Prof Moazzem Hossain presided the discussion.

Terming right of information as human right, speakers called for abolishing all blacklaws opposing the right.

They said corruption, irregularities, misuse of power, nepotism and other kinds of vices would be eliminated once for all if the right to information is established.

6X3

15,000 marooned as Kobadak dam gives in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Twelve villages in Pratapnagar union under Assasuni upazila were flooded following collapse of embankment at Kurikauzia point on the Kobadak river yesterday afternoon.

Over 15,000 people in the areas have been marooned while standing Amon crops on 1400 acres of land and some 2,500 shrimp enclosures in the area have been washed away, sources said.

Heavy pressure of river water due to high tide at about 1:00pm also washed away the sluice gate, in addition to breaching some 82 feet of the embankment.

I am not afraid, says Khulna mayor Tayebur
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna City Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman has said he would submit his wealth statement within the stipulated time after receiving the notice from Anti Corruption Commission (ACC).

"I am not at all afraid of sale of my name in the print media as one of the eighty high-profile corrupt suspects. Because, I live an honest life with my honest income", the Mayor said.

Praising present government's move against corruption, he said he would accept ACC notice with thanks. "Because, I have nothing to conceal," he said.

Sheikh Tayebur Rahman said he had a sound sleep Thursday night hearing the news that he was on the list of 80 corrupt suspects.

"The government's suspicion will go when my wealth statement will be proved transparent in an impartial investigation", he said.

The ongoing drive against corruption by the government will certainly make the country prosperous and hold its image high in the world, city mayor said.

"Those who looted wealth of the country must be brought to book and given exemplary punishment. The country can not hope anything good from a woman who used to waste much time of a day for her hair", the mayor said.

Trader flees captors, 2 hurt in kidnap bid in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A cattle trader escaped from the captivity of a gang after three days of his abduction from his house in Mirpur upazila while people foiled an attempt to abduct another trader in Kushtia town on Thursday night.

Criminals stabbed the latter and his employee before fleeing.

A gang abducted cattle trader Siddiq Ali of Gopinathpur in Mirpur upazila on Tuesday night after he denied to pay them toll, sources said.

The gang led by Altaf Hossain of the area demanded Tk 50,000 several days ago and threatened Siddiq with dire consequences when he denied to pay the money.

Siddiq told newsmen.

On Tuesday noon, the gang stormed Siddiq's house and picked him up at gunpoint. Later they demanded Tk 1 lakh as ransom.

The gang took Siddiq to Hardi

Rehabilitate Bangalees, Samo Adhikar demands
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachari

Parbatya

Chittagong Samo Adhikar Andolon (PCSA) yesterday demanded immediate rehabilitation of Bangalees who live at 84 cluster villages in eight upazilas under Khagrachari hill district.

In a press release signed by PCSA Khagrachari district convener Dousa Muhammed Chowdhury, they also demanded security of the Bangalee people and all sorts of government facilities for them.

The PCSA condemned the Babuchara incident and false propaganda against Bangladesh Army and its chief by some ethnic groups.

A section of ethnic groups are grabbing the lands inhabited by the Bangalees at Sonamoti under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachari district although the Bangalee settlers have all legal documents, it said.

The section, making false propaganda against the army and their activities, gave wrong information about Army Chief Moeen U Ahmed's surprise visit to Dighinala on August 28, it added.

The PCSA demanded stopping of the activities that might act against the communal harmony between the Bangalee and ethnic people.

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